

United States Patent [19]

Richards et al.

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[54] **HELP PROVISION IN A DATA PROCESSING SYSTEM**

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[57] **ABSTRACT**

Help is provided to the user of a data processing system having a work station, including a display, and input means including a visible on-screen indicator and a selection means, in response to a request from the user, information on the current state of the system is used to address a store of hierarchical help text information, thereby providing contextual help text which is displayed in a separate window on the display screen alongside information related to the task in hand. A help map function is available which displays concurrently, separately from the help text, a portion of a hierarchical map of the stored help text to be replaced by new help text corresponding to the selected map entry.

6 Claims, 7 Drawing Sheets

